

name stuck, and by November 21, 1906, the County Court of Arkansas County approved a petition to incorporate the town of Gillett. The town was busy in those early years, establishing the Bank of Gillett, constructing the first sidewalks, building a modern two-story high school on Champion Avenue, and dedicating the first flagpole in honor of the men from Gillett serving in World War I. By the early 1920s, Gillett recorded its highest population ever of 1,175 citizens.

Gillett hit difficult times, however, in the late 1920s when the flood of 1927 and the Great Depression came. Residents lost their homes and farms, the local bank closed its doors, and businesses went bankrupt. It was not until the 1930s when jobs started to reappear as sawmills, stave mills, and handle factories relocated to our city.

Gillett sent many men into World War II in the 1940s. Some were captured as prisoners of war in the Pacific. Others lost their life fighting for their country. While the town prayed for its war heroes, community leaders continued working to improve the economic conditions in Gillett. In 1946, all the one-room schools in the area moved to Gillett District 66, and the town held its first Coon Supper to raise money for local school and youth activities. This event evolved over the years into one of Arkansas' most popular political events and now receives national and worldwide attention.

The town continued to grow during the 1950s and 1960s, with Gillett High School attaining North Central Accreditation, the construction of the Arkansas River Navigation Project, integration of the schools, and the establishment of the Planters and Merchants Bank of Gillett. Farmers and businesses continued to turn a profit, and by the 1970s area farmers reported all-time highs for commodities. Farms were paid off, new machinery purchased, and new homes constructed.

The town itself also underwent a number of improvements thanks to the Federal Revenue Sharing period. A new city hall was constructed, and street improvements were made. A library was built, water and sewer improvements received attention, and many beautification projects took place.

Despite the booming times of the 1960s and 1970s, the depressed farm economy of the 1980s and 1990s proved to be a challenging time for our citizens. Many businesses closed, and construction of new homes came to a halt. Population figures declined from the highs of the 1920s and 1960s, and the schools continued to lose enrollment. This declining enrollment posed a serious threat during the 1980s, when a consolidation proposal almost cost the town its schools.

It was during this time, in 1996, when the citizens of Gillett helped elect me to represent Arkansas's 1st Congressional District in the United States House of Representatives. As a resident of Gillett, Arkansas, I am honored to

serve my friends in Congress and have spent the past decade working to restore prosperity to the region. We continue to fight for our farmers who struggle with high fuel and fertilizer costs, and we are working to diversify our energy supply so places like Gillett can benefit from new opportunities.

Gillett has always been a town of citizens who pull together during tough times to improve our schools, help our businesses grow, and attract new development to the region. On May 27, 2006, our community will gather to celebrate 100 years as a corporate community. We will hold a parade down Main Street, reflect on our history, and place a time capsule in front of city hall to preserve our story for generations to come.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating my hometown of Gillett, Arkansas, on this significant milestone. We send our appreciation to the town's citizens for years of hard work and dedication to their community and wish Gillett many more years as a wonderful place to live and raise a family.

#### HEALTH IT

(Mr. GINGREY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of Health Information Technology, one of the most important and immediate ways we can increase patient safety and help more Americans access quality health care.

Health Information Technology, like electronic medical records and e-prescribing, can help doctors save money, time and, most importantly, save lives. But as I speak to practicing physicians across America, I am hearing the same thing time and time again, Mr. Speaker: I would love to invest in this new technology, but the costs are simply prohibitive.

This is why I have introduced H.R. 4641, legislation to increase tax deductions for physicians who invest in Health Information Technology. If more physicians can afford Health IT, more Americans can benefit from these systems.

Mr. Speaker, a recent RAND study reveals that a widely adopted Health IT system could save the United States more than \$126 billion each and every year. We have a unique opportunity then to help doctors, patients and the American taxpayer in one fell swoop.

It is absolutely crucial that we encourage the adoption of HIT, Health Information Technology. Congress must act, and we must act now. H.R. 4641 is the right approach to lower the cost barriers to Health IT for our physicians.

#### STEM CELL RESEARCH

(Ms. BALDWIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I am fortunate to represent the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where Dr. Jamie Thompson and his team of scientists were the first to derive and culture human embryonic stem cells in a lab.

Embryonic stem cells open up the possibility of dramatic new medical treatments, transplantation therapies and cures. But on August 9, 2001, the hope and promise of this research was greatly curtailed by this administration's severe restrictions on Federal research dollars.

Last year, I was proud to fight for the passage of H.R. 810, a bill that opens up Federal research dollars to stem cells derived from donated embryos. One year has gone by since the House passed that bill. It is time for the Senate to act. We can no longer tie the hands of our scientists. We need to unlock the promise that this research holds.

#### U.S. MOX PROGRAM

(Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, in 2000, the U.S. and Russia agreed to dispose of 34 metric tons of surplus weapons-grade plutonium by turning it into a mixed oxide fuel for existing commercial nuclear reactors. Recently, the future of this program, which is vital to our national security, has been in doubt.

I acknowledge, sure, there have been delays, but I am confident that language previously agreed to by the House will allow the U.S. MOX program to move forward regardless of the pace of the Russian program. Moving forward in this unilateral fashion makes good sense.

I am proud that the Savannah River Site in my district has been selected for this important project. Eliminating the MOX program in the Energy and Water Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2007 is wrong not only for my State but the Nation and the world.

The chairman has made his thoughts clear, but I respectfully disagree with his conclusions and will not be able to support any legislation that effectively turns South Carolina into a dumping ground. That is why I will not be able to support H.R. 5427 when it comes to a vote later today.

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#### VETERANS AND CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE CARE

(Ms. SOLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to urge my colleagues to provide greater funding for our Nation's veterans. More than 24 million veterans and their families have sacrificed for this country, yet the majority continues to underfund vital mental health and bereavement counseling.

The growing numbers of minorities in the military and their families is especially important to note. One in 10 soldiers in the U.S. Army and one in seven marines are of Latino extraction, 7 percent of the U.S. Navy is Asian Pacific Islander, and 3 percent of the Navy and Marine Corps is Native American. But only 43 percent of the VA's staff is trained to implement culturally and linguistically appropriate programs, and only 24 percent of the facilities have translated materials into languages that are used by our servicemen and their families.

I urge my colleagues to support a bill I introduced, H.R. 5007, to ensure that veterans and their families receive culturally and linguistically competent health care, especially those suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder.

As we remember Memorial Day, we should not hinder but support our military veterans and their families. And I send my special condolences to the families of the 11 soldiers who died in Iraq from my district.

#### ON MEMORIAL DAY AND IN HONOR OF CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER KYLE JACKSON

(Ms. HARRIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the life of Chief Warrant Officer Kyle Jackson, a Sarasota native and an American hero.

By the measure of time, Kyle's life was too short. Yet in the words of Rudyard Kipling, he filled "the unforgiving minute with 60 seconds' worth of distance run."

A 28-year-old father of two, Kyle treasured the fullness of each and every day and treasured the fragility of every moment. His father, Gary, said that "he wanted to do his job and wanted to do it well." As a father and a son, as a soldier and a marine, Kyle gave the full measure of his heart and soul to the performance of all of his duties.

After September 11, 2001, Kyle heard the call to serve his Nation and reenlisted in the Armed Forces. Earlier this year, while stationed in Iraq, he answered God's call and gave to a grateful Nation his most treasured gift, his life.

Kyle is not unlike the many brave men and women who have died in our Nation's defense, except to his wife, Betsy, his daughters Alia and Keira, and all who were blessed to have shared a moment with him.

I wish to recognize Kyle Jackson for his extraordinary service to his Nation and to his family.

#### NUCLEAR IRAN

(Ms. WATSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, the danger of a nuclear Iran may be the biggest security challenge facing America and the world, and now it appears that the Iranian regime might finally be willing to talk about ending their nuclear weapons programs.

This opportunity raises many questions. Can we depend on Iran to negotiate in good faith? Is Iran truly ready to renounce terrorism? And what will be the cost to the people of Iran if we engage a regime that oppresses its own people?

We must confront all these questions and scour our conscience for the answers. But these questions are dwarfed by a more immediate one: Do we have the courage, the foresight and the strength of will to seize this opportunity? Will we be brave enough to talk with Iran and risk a diplomatic failure? Or will we be so afraid to talk that we would risk war?

I ask the President to confront his fears, justified as they may be, and choose the courageous path of reaching out to engage Iran on a diplomatic formula to end the Iranian nuclear program.

#### IMMIGRANT SMUGGLERS AVOID PROSECUTION

(Mr. KELLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, 94 percent of the felons arrested for illegally smuggling aliens across the Mexico border near San Diego are never prosecuted by the U.S. Attorney. This is according to a shocking internal Border Patrol report just revealed by the Associated Press.

Are you surprised? I told the Attorney General about this problem on April 6, and I spoke on the House floor about it on April 27. On my recent trip to the Mexico border, Border Patrol agents in California told me that they have arrested the same coyotes 20 times but they are not prosecuted.

The pathetic failure of the U.S. Attorney in San Diego to prosecute alien smugglers who have been arrested 20 times is a demoralizing slap in the face to Border Patrol agents to who risk their lives every day. This U.S. Attorney has, however, recently prosecuted someone for selling a Mark McGuire baseball card with a forged signature.

Here is a tip: Stop worrying about baseball cards and start worrying about enforcing our immigration laws.

#### HOUSE GOP CANNOT GOVERN

(Mr. STUPAK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, during a 48-hour period last week, the House Republican majority once again demonstrated why they cannot govern. After weeks of arm twisting and two

failed attempts to bring up a budget, the Republican leadership finally forced a vote late last Wednesday. Democrats stood united against the budget. Republicans were forcing major cuts in education, veterans, health and environmental programs. Also, they would continue to shower millionaires with tax breaks.

Nevertheless, the Republican budget passed. Two days later, they saw the implications of that vote when a small group of House Republicans stripped \$50 million out of the military construction and veterans appropriations bill because the funding did not fit into the budget that they passed 2 days before.

House Republicans have nobody to blame but themselves. They are the ones who continue to put the needs of the wealthiest few above the needs of our veterans, our military personnel, our children and our environment.

The sad fact is that what America witnessed last Friday afternoon will be repeated over and over again here on the House floor until Republicans finally realize that their fiscal policies are out of sync with this Nation.

#### TRIBUTE TO PAM KOCHER, 2006 JOSEPH MOAKLEY AWARD FOR EXEMPLARY PUBLIC SERVICE RECIPIENT

(Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Pam Kocher of New Hampshire, the recipient of the 2006 Congressman Joseph Moakley Award for Exemplary Public Service. Pam Kocher's service extends over three decades and includes serving in elected office at the local level and working for elected officials at the Federal level.

Pam's many years of service, coupled with her strong working relationships, came in very handy last summer when the Maine and New Hampshire congressional delegations were faced with the daunting task of convincing the BRAC Commission to keep the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard open. Pam's leadership in bringing together a community-based coalition was one of the driving factors in our success.

Pam credits her driving force as wanting to make government work for people. She stands for hard work, is a problem solver and knows how to bring people together to work towards a common goal.

I congratulate and thank Pam on her years of hard work and dedication to New Hampshire, New England and our great Nation.

#### SOME POLITICIANS JUST DON'T GET IT

(Mrs. MILLER of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)